

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9483

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 8106

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR IS US

SUBJECT: ISRAELI LEAKS OF PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGES TO THE PRIME MINISTER

1. DURING ATHERTON VISIT I RAISED WITH RABIN'S DIRECTOR GENERAL
EIRAN THE LATEST ISRAELI PRESS LEAK IN WHICH MAARIV HEADLINED THE
STORY THAT RABIN HAD ASKED ME "TO TAKE BACK" OUR MESSAGE PROTESTING
THE GOI DECISION TO ESTABLISH FOUR NEW SETTLEMENTS ON THE GOLAN
HEIGHTS. I EXPRESSED MY DEEP DISPLEASURE AT THIS DEVELOPMENT AND
ASKED HOW IT COULD HAVE HAPPENED. EIRAN TOLD ME THAT RABIN HAD BRIEFED
THE CABINET ON SUNDAY ON THIS MATTER AGAINST THE ADVICE OF HIS ADVISERS
AND THAT HE NOW RECOGNIZED THAT HE HAD MADE A MISTAKE.

2. I THINK OUR PRESS LINE HERE OUGHT TO BE THAT OUR POLICY IS NOT TO
COMMENT ON PRIVATE EXCHANGES BETWEEN U.S. AND ISRAELI LEADERS. AS
TO THE SUBSTANCE OF THIS ISSUE, OUR POSITION IS WELL KNOWN; WE ARE
OPPOSED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SETTLEMENTS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES
BECAUSE THEY ARE IN VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW.

3. ADVISE.
TOON

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